Aircrafts Lost by Indian Navy

2406. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts lost by the Indian Navy each year during the last three years;

(b) their makes and causes for their crash; and

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Navy to prevent these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) During the years 2000, 2001 and 2002, the number of aircrafts lost by Indian Navy were 'nil', 2 (two) and 2 (two) respectively.

(b) These lost aircrafts were, one Sea Harrier, one Kamov and two IL-38. Sea Harrier was lost during maintenance test flight due to a judgement error of air crew. The cause of the Kamov loss could not be determined since it crashed into sea during a maintenance test flight and both the pilots also perished with the aircraft. The cause of loss of the two IL-38 aircrafts was mid-air collision.

(c) The accidents were investigated by Naval Boards of Inquiry. Since the cause and classification of each accident was different, it implies that the accidents are not repetitive in nature. However, necessary directives have been issued for implementation of measures to prevent recurrence of accidents, based on the findings and recommendations of the Board of Inquiry.

Occupation of Peaks by Pakistani Troops

2407. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani troops have begun movement along the LoC and have occupied various peaks in the Northern Drass sector similar to the situation before the Kargil war;

(b) if so, whether there have been instances that Indo-Pak troops had exchanged fire at these places; and

(c) if not, whether the army is ready for retaliation in case similar